GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
UNIT RUN CANTEENS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unit-run canteens of the Defence Departments in the country;

(b) the number of employees working in these unit-run canteens;

(c) whether the Jodhpur Central Administrative Tribunal had declared the Defence Canteen employees as Central Government staff long back in 1994 and the Supreme Court also had declared them as Central Government staff vide its judgement in the Civil Appeal No. 1039-40 of 1999; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for delay in implementing the judgement?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) There are at present 3692 unit-run canteens functioning in different formations/units of the three services and other organizations.

(b) As per reports received from the services there are about 2300 employees working in these unit-run canteens (URC).

(c) & (d): In the case filed by Mohd. Aslam & others, CAT, Jodhpur ordered for treating civilian workers of URCs as government employees. In the appeal filed by Government against the CAT order, the Supreme Court held in 2001 that such workers could be treated as government employees which, however, ipso facto would not entitle them to get all service benefits as is available to the regular government servant or even their counterparts serving in CSD canteens and separate rules could be framed regulating their terms and conditions of service. Separate terms and conditions were prescribed for employees of Unit Run Canteens. In another subsequent case SLP (Civil) No. 8586 of 2003 filed by Shri R.R. Pillai, the Supreme Court decided to reconsider the decision taken in the case of Union of India Vs Mohd. Aslam. The matter is at present sub-judice.